REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

In response to the Office Action dated July 31, 2001, which was made final, and in conjunction with the continued prosecution application (CPA) submitted herewith, claims 1-14 have been cancelled and new claims 15-22 have been added. Claims 15-22 are in the application. Entry of these amendments, and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

In paragraphs (3)-(4), the Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1, 5, 6, and 9 under the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 5,699,526 in view of Ryu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,408,608 (Ryu) and Oracle, Oracle7 Server Administrator's Guide (Oracle).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of new claims 15-22, but will file a terminal disclaimer if necessary to moot this rejection when allowable subject matter is identified.

III. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In paragraph (5) of the Office Action, claims 1-7, 9-10, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryu in view of Oracle. In paragraph (6) of the Office Action, claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryu in view of Oracle as applied to claim 6 and in view of Terry et al. (Terry). In paragraph (7) of the Office Action, claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryu in view of Oracle as applied to claim 10 and in view of Dworkin.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections with regard to new claims 15-22.

A. The Applicant's Claimed Invention

Independent claim 15 is generally directed to an invention that provides a resource management system. The system comprises a plurality of servers grouped into interconnected regional servers and local servers, wherein the regional servers serve a region and hold one or more profiles for resources associated with the local servers within the region. The resources are classified as physical resources and soft resources, wherein the physical resources are not downloadable from the local servers and the soft resources are downloadable from the local servers. Each of the resources has at least one of the profiles associated therewith, and each of the profiles includes a

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description and a location of the associated resource, and wherein each of the profiles, when created, is assigned to a category. One or more user computers are interconnected with the regional and local servers and include means for storing the profiles of the resources into one or more of the regional servers, means for searching the profiles stored in the regional servers by category, and means for requesting the resources associated with the local servers based on the searched profiles.

B.   The Ryu Reference

The Ryu reference teaches a distributed data base system that is formed by terminal units connected in a public network or a private network. Each terminal unit stores the real data and a temporary center stores control information, such as contents corresponding to the real data, keywords, or commands assigned to the data.

C.   The Oracle Reference

The Oracle reference teaches a database administration system for a relational database management system wherein a database administrator may perform database server operations either locally from the server or remotely from a client.

D.   The Terry Reference

The Terry reference describes continuous queries to append-only databases. Where data is continuously added to a database, users can issue permanent queries and be notified whenever data matches the query.

E.   The Dworkin Reference

The Dworkin reference describes an automated system that assists a user in locating and purchasing goods or services sold by a plurality of vendors. The system includes a programmed computer which is linked to a database. The database contains information about a large number of different products and/or services, arranged in various categories. For each product or service, the database contains information on price, vendor, specifications, and/or availability.

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F.   <u>Claims 15-22 Are Patentable Over The Cited References</u>

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 15 is patentable over the references, because this claim contains limitations not found in the references.

The user terminals of Ryu merely access contents stored in the contents control center, while only the data terminals store contents into the control center. The Oracle reference only describes how a user can perform database server operations either locally from the server or remotely from a client. The Terry reference merely deals with continuous queries of a database. Finally, the Dworkin reference merely teaches a way to price shop via database query.

Thus, taken individually or in any combination, the references do not teach or suggest a plurality of servers grouped into interconnected regional servers and local servers, wherein regional servers serve a region and hold one or more profiles for resources associated with the local servers within the region. Indeed, there is no recognition of "regions" in the references, nor is there any discussion of storing profiles in the regional servers and associating resources with the local servers within the region.

Moreover, the references do not teach or suggest that the resources are classified as physical resources and soft resources, wherein the physical resources are not downloadable from the local servers and the soft resources are downloadable from the local servers. Indeed, there is no recognition of the "physical resources" or "soft resources" in any of the references,

In addition, the references do not teach or suggest that each of the resources has at least one of the profiles associated therewith, and each of the profiles includes a description of the resource and a location of the associated resource, and wherein each of the profiles, when created, is assigned to a category. Instead, the specific limitations associated with profiles are unique to Applicant's invention, including the use of categories.

Finally, the references do not teach or suggest that user computers are interconnected with the regional and local servers and include means for storing the profiles of the resources into one or more of the regional servers, means for searching the profiles stored in the regional servers by category, and means for requesting the resources associated with the local servers based on the searched profiles.

The novel limitations of the present invention allow for a client-server system that is more interchangeable and useful than those described in the prior art. Moreover, the various elements of the Applicant's claimed invention together provide operational advantages over the systems disclosed in the prior art. In addition, the Applicant's invention solves problems not recognized by the prior art.

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Thus, the Applicant submits that independent claim 15 is allowable over Ryu, Oracle, Terry, and Dworkin. Further, dependent claims 16-22 are submitted to be allowable over Ryu, Oracle, Terry, and Dworkin in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claim 15, and thus contain all the limitations of the independent claim. In addition, dependent claims 16-22 recite additional novel elements not shown by Ryu, Oracle, Terry, and Dworkin.

IV.   CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectively solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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